

MORTON CALLS ON THE MAYORS.

Conference on the Raines Bill at the Capitol To-morrow.

Platt's Men Have Dragooned the Governor, but He Has Asserted Independence.

May Hold the Bill Until the Republican Convention Elects Delegates to St. Louis.

STRONG'S DELPHIC UTTERANCE.

Refuses to Commit Himself on the Excise Measure, and Politicians Speculating Find a Deep, Dark Motive for His Silence.

Republican machine politicians were in an awful stew last night over Governor Morton's action in announcing for to-morrow a hearing on the Raines bill for Mayors of the cities affected. Whatever results from the hearing, whether or not the Governor signs the Excise bill, the Governor's attitude of yesterday is a declaration of independence as significant as Lieutenant-Governor Saxton's stand last week.

During the past two days the Governor has been subjected to the same sort of dragooning that Legislators' independence encountered before the bill passed. The legislators were openly threatened, their district bosses came to Albany and scolded them. Mr. Platt sent them telegrams and letters of warning. The treatment given the Governor differed slightly. He was first urged to sign the bill by both Speaker Fish and Senator Raines. Then Mr. Platt's friends privately circulated the alleged information that the Governor would sign the bill either today or to-morrow. There was no truth in the report and its circulators knew there was no truth in it. The object was to have the newspapers regard the gubernatorial action as settled, so that the opposition might cease.

Mr. Platt's statement of yesterday morning is most important, as showing his uneasiness. He seldom gives out one of his type written statements unless he counts danger to his plans, and his intemperance are invariably intended to stiffen somebody's back. His interview of to-day was obviously designed to stiffen the Governor's veterans, but it stiffened it in the wrong way.

A Formal Hearing?
The machine men, completely dashed at first over the Governor's declaration, pulled themselves together, and said, very faintly, that the hearing was purely formal, and that the fact that the Governor granted the Mayors a hearing plainly indicated he would not send the bill to the Mayors for approval. There is no truth in this report. The Governor has not decided whether or not he will sign the bill. The matter was referred to the Governor's legal advisor, Revision Commissioner Lincoln, and he has not prepared an opinion on the subject.

"That is one of the objects of the hearing to be given the Mayors," said Colonel Ashley W. Cole, the Governor's private secretary, last night. "There is still a doubt as to whether the bill should go to the Mayors for their approval. The question still under advisement, and the Mayors hearing may result in either information or arguments upon which a conclusion may be used. One thing at least is certain, the fact that a hearing is to be given the Mayors does not mean that the Governor believes the bill should not go to the Mayors."

John Boyd Thacher is entitled to the credit of having put the case so plainly to the Governor that the latter could not refuse a hearing although the machine bitterly opposed the granting of such a privilege. As the Mayor of Albany, Mr. Thacher sees the injustice of the bill. His freedom from the politician's taint, and the fact that he has not drunk any spurious, vineous or malt liquor in years, and knows no liquor men caused the Governor to give respectful attention to the request. Mr. Thacher's contention is that the Raines bill is a special city law and for that reason must go to the Mayors.

The Law of the Referendum.
Section 12, of the new Constitution, says on this point:

Laws relating to the property, affairs of government of cities and the several departments thereof are divided into general and special city laws. General city laws are those which relate to all the cities of one or more classes; special city laws are those which relate to a single city or less than all the cities of a class. After any bill for a special city law, relating to a city, has been passed by both branches of the Legislature the house in which it originated shall immediately transmit a certified copy thereof to the Mayor of such city, and within fifteen days thereafter the Mayor shall return such bill to the house from which it was sent, or if the session of the Legislature at which such bill passed has terminated, to the Governor, with the Mayor's certificate. If the Mayor certifies that the city has or has not accepted the same, such bill, if it relates to more than one city, shall be transmitted to the Mayor of each city to which it relates and shall not be deemed accepted unless accepted as herein provided by every such city.

Whenever any such bill is accepted as herein provided it shall be subject, as are other bills, to the action of the Governor. Whenever, during the session at which it was passed any such bill is returned without the acceptance of the city or cities to which it relates, or within such fifteen days is not returned, it may nevertheless again be passed by both branches of the Legislature and it shall then be subject, as are other bills, to the action of the Governor.

Mayor Thacher said last evening: "I am very glad indeed the Governor has granted

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WHAT THE MAYORS SAY.

Few Executives of Cities Favorable to the Excise Measure Which the Legislature Passed.

Albany, March 16.—Mayor Thacher received from Governor Morton this morning the following reply to the request for a hearing on the Raines bill by the Mayors of the State:

Hon. John Boyd Thacher, Mayor, Albany, N. Y.:
Dear Sir—The Governor directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 13th inst., requesting a hearing on behalf of yourself and other Mayors upon the Liquor Tax bill, and to inform you that the hearing so requested will be granted you and the other Mayors who join you in the request on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at 10 a. m., in the Executive Chamber. Very truly yours,
ASHLEY W. COLE, Private Secretary.

ALBANY'S MAYOR CONDEMNS STRONG'S INACTIVITY.

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Albany, N. Y., March 16.

To the Editor of the Journal:

In reply to your inquiry, I expect to appear before the Governor Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock and argue against the Raines bill. Very short time is given me to prepare an argument, but I will present as best I can the fact of the unconstitutionality of the Raines bill and the fact that, as an administrative officer, I realize the difficulties of preserving law and order under said bill, which practically leaves the regulation of the liquor traffic in the hands of non-residents of our city.

It is scarcely necessary to point out that the Raines bill takes from the city money which should be used to support the police force and the public charities, and gives it to districts of the State which do not have to pay for maintaining order in the cities or contribute to the support of their poor.

I cannot understand why your Mayor should leave the burden of fighting this bill on the shoulders of others.

JOHN BOYD THACHER,
Mayor of Albany.

TROY'S MAYOR WILL URGE MORTON TO VETO.

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Troy, N. Y., March 16.

To the Editor of the Journal:

I hope the Governor will have the courage to veto Raines bill. I expect to attend the hearing given to the Mayors, and will urge him to do so.

FRANCIS J. MOLLOY,
Mayor of Troy.

BUFFALO'S MAYOR IS IN THE OPPOSITION.

THE POSTAL COMPANY'S SYSTEMS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH EMPIRE.
TELEGRAM
RECEIVED at the WESTERN UNION BUILDING, 195 Broadway, N. Y. 1896

Buffalo, N. Y., March 16.

To the Editor of the Journal:

I have engagements which make it impossible to leave here Wednesday to attend hearing, but will probably be represented. I am opposed to the bill.

EDGAR B. JEWETT,
Mayor of Buffalo.

SYRACUSE'S MAYOR BELIEVES IN A VETO.

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Syracuse, N. Y., March 16.

To the Editor of the Journal:

I expect to be present at the hearing, and believe the Governor should veto the Raines bill.

JAMES K. McGUIRE,
Mayor of Syracuse.

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PUGH AND DICKINSON RESORT TO FISTS.

Pugilistic Encounter Between the Senator and Ex-Postmaster-General.

The Former Dashes a Deck of Cards into the Face of the President's Friend.

The Alabamian's Virulent Criticism of the Administration Led to the Collision.

FRIENDS QUICKLY INTERFERED.

Neither Combatant Was Injured, and Apologies, a Handshake and Reconciliation Immediately Followed.

Washington, March 16.—Cleveland is much scandalized. High official circles have received a dreadful shock. Two eminent publicists, meeting privately at catchweights, have had what is vulgarly called a "scrap." They swung at each other's neck, welled away at each other's nose, essayed to smash each other in the eye, and if no bones were broken, no skin abraded, no blood set flowing, it is all due more to a lack of direct skill as pugilists than to any failure of nerve or ardor on the part of the great men concerned.

The collision mourned over took place between Don Dickinson and Senator Pugh, of Alabama. The theatre of these frenzied gymnastics was Chamberlin's.

By the way, this famous hostility would seem to be superseding Bladenburg as a place for private encounters. It was here "Buffalo Bill" Cody whipped Fred May. It was here that Lieutenant Lucien Young, of our Navy, punched the celebrated nose of Senator Blackburn. It was here, on last Saturday night, that the choleric Senator Pugh, as a finale to some disrespectful remarks he had just delivered concerning Cleveland, dashed a full deck of playing cards into the face of Don Dickinson, with a wicked force, and the two, joining physical issue, at once became locked in a deadly embrace, and the war was on.

This is the story, or such meagre details as can be collected. Thursday is dithering about, commissioned to stifle the yarn in every avenue through which it may strive to reach the public, and that makes men loth to talk thereon.

It was Saturday night. Chamberlin's rooms were full. Chamberlin's is a great resort for the personages "in our midst," and among others who were there at the time quoted, were Don Dickinson and Senator Pugh.

RECORDS OF THE COMBATANTS.
Don Dickinson was once of the Cabinet as Postmaster-General. He is the author of Thurber in this Administration, and a warm, near henchman of the President.

Senator Pugh is a Southern gentleman, representing Alabama in the upper House. He has been in Congress since Buchanan's time. For three or four years he preferred to represent his State in the Confederate Congress, which sat at Richmond, until Grant adjourned it sine die, with his bayonets and artillery.

Senator Pugh is very old, but age, as in the case of the Black Douglass, has not served to cool his blood, which is as full of fiery possibility as naphtha. The old statesman is as combustible as a powder house and burns with the same spectacular and explosive effects, and, as stated, the two met at Chamberlin's. They and a select few were in a room devoted to the Chamberlin economy to that device known as draw poker. They played game here of the sort which cynics derisively term "friendly."

Pugh makes a specialty of hating the Administration. He counts each day lost wherein he does not roundly and soundly denounce Cleveland and despitely use his name. He is also a headlong free silver man.

It fell out that the moment Pugh beheld Dickinson, whom he knows as a gold-bug adherent of the President, that his mind reverted to that high official and he poured forth a volley of words touching Cleveland, which were not complimentary, in language at once vigorous and picturesque.

His remarks were addressed to Dickinson, who hotly replied, casting the general accuracy of Pugh's statements and winding up with a peremptory mouthful of animadversion on Pugh himself.

PUGH OPENS THE ENGAGEMENT.

It was at this crisis that Pugh cast the deck of cards, which he was fondling, into the frank and open face of Dickinson, striking him squarely between those side whiskers for which Dickinson has fame.

Then they clinched and cavorted and made futile efforts to smite each other, and tipped over chairs and carried on like the Boverys on Saturday nights.

It was not to go to a finish, however, or even to first blood. The few horrified spectators of this "unlooked-for sporting event" collected their energies and pulled them apart. Both were much blown and a bit groggy from exertion and lack of training. Dickinson's face was unmarked, and great joy was expressed that Pugh hit him with the cards rather than a stack of chips, which he most probably would have done had any such commodity been within his possession or control.

There was a great deal of talk following the fracas; there always is. The upshot of it all was that Dickinson and Pugh solemnly shook hands and begged pardon. Then they all gave themselves up to considering how the story might be suppressed, and so it ends.

ITALIANS IN IMMINENT PERIL.

The Fanatic Dervishes Are Marching in Great Force Against Kassala.

Rome, March 16.—A dispatch from Massowah, under yesterday's date, confirms the reports that the Mahdist army is marching against Kassala.

The Italians are determined to hold Kassala, and with this object have forwarded strong reinforcements, which are expected to reach Kassala today.

LAWMAKERS UNDER BAYONET RULE.

Kentucky Solons Hemmed In on All Sides by the Militia.

Bradley Carried Out His Threat and a State House Siege Ensued.

Three Hundred Troops Barred the Passage of Those Who Were Not Provided with Passes.

GOVERNOR HISSED IN THE STREET.

Scenes of Disorder Renewed in the Upper House—Only One Vote Cast for Senator—Another Vote Before Adjournment.

Lexington, Ky., March 16.—For the first time since the war the Kentucky Legislature met to-day under bayonet rule. True to his promise, Governor Bradley had the State soldiers on guard and not even a member of the Court of Appeals could enter the State House yard without a pass from Adjutant-General Collier.

Three hundred troops from Louisville arrived at the Capital at an early hour this morning and they were quartered near the arsenal. Thirty-five members of the State Guard from Lexington arrived at 5



Governor William O. Bradley.

He is Kentucky's Chief Executive, and ordered several companies of the State militia yesterday to guard the State House, much to the indignation of all Democrats and many Republicans. When he appeared in the street under an armed escort, during the day, he was greeted with hisses and cat calls.

At 5 o'clock and were given quarters in the arsenal. The McCrory Guards, of Frankfort, were kept on duty at the State House. The snow was four inches deep.

When Governor Bradley was escorted from the State House to his mansion by twenty soldiers the immense crowd which lined the street gave vent to derisive cries, hisses and cat calls. It was a sight never before witnessed by Kentuckians, and when they saw their Chief Executive guarded like the Czar of Russia they were stricken with amazement.

CHAPLAIN STOPPED BY BAYONETS.

Just before the hour for the Legislature to convene, as the venerable Chaplain Cooper attempted to enter the State House grounds on his way to the halls of legislation to open the deliberations with prayer, he was stopped at the gates by bayonets and told he could not enter without a pass. After explaining, he was allowed to enter, but when he mounted the rostrum he said:

"I cannot disfigure the Lord by offering prayer while the State is being disgraced by the armed men surrounding the capital. This is the first time I have had a bayonet flared in my face since 1861."

With this the minister descended and walked from the chamber amid deafening applause from the Democrats.

An attempt was made by a Republican member of the House to introduce a resolution commending Governor Bradley's action in calling out the troops. As soon as the clerk had read enough of it for its nature to be understood, the Democratic members arose like one man and walked toward the door. The resolution was quickly withdrawn and the Democrats took their seats.

In the Senate a dramatic scene occurred when Captain Gaines, of the McCrory Guards, mounted the rostrum and began talking to Lieutenant-Governor Worthington. r. Bronston asked the Chair by what authority Captain Gaines was allowed on the floor of the Senate in his uniform and armed with sword and pistol. The Captain replied that he would remain if the Lieutenant-Governor told him to. That official told the Captain he might leave, and he did so.

THE GOVERNOR DENOUNCED.

The Senate was a scene of confusion for some time after this occurred. Mr. Bronston continued to prod the Governor for calling out the troops, and offered a resolution in which he set forth the fact of the militia having been ordered out and the Governor taking personal command. The resolution then went on to say:

"Resolved, That we denounce such action on the part of the Governor as in viola-

tion of the Constitution and statutes of Kentucky, as subversive of their civil government and a flagrant usurpation of power which should be resented by all citizens of this commonwealth; that this body does refuse, so long as the State militia remains in control of the capital, to consider any matter of legislation or to receive or consider any communication from the Governor."

Mr. Bronston moved that the vote be taken on his resolution, and made a bitter speech, declaring that every man not willing to crawl on his belly should vote for it. He spoke at length and went further than his resolution. He denounced as infamous lies the stories that had been taken to the Governor by those high in authority. He said that Kentuckians were not dead yet and would have peace if they had but to summon every able-bodied man in Kentucky to the State capital.

Mr. Hayward followed and likened Governor Bradley's action and its result to the days of Napoleon in France. He thought they were heading over an earthquake.

The chair ruled that Mr. Bronston's resolution was out of order, and then took the floor and defended his rule, occupying the time until noon, at which hour the joint session was called.

ONE VOTE FOR SENATOR.

When the roll was called in the joint assembly the members of both parties refused to vote for United States Senator, with the exception of Mr. Speed, Republican, who voted for Boyle.

The joint assembly then adjourned, and the Senate went into session again to consider the resolution against Governor Bradley, but the committee failed to make its report, and nothing was done.

The greatest excitement occurred when the well-known race horse starter, Jack Chalm, Esq. Lillard, John McElroy and James Williams, the leaders of Blackburn's fighting brigade, who had been sworn in as deputy sergeants-at-arms, tried

WAR TALK IN FOUR CAPITALS.

Britain's Move in Egypt Rouses London, Berlin, Paris and St. Petersburg.

Czar's Decoration of King Menelik Acts Like a Bomb-shell in Germany.

Analogous to the Effect in England of Wilhelm's Dispatch to Oom Paul.

WILL THE POWERS COME TO BLOWS?

Nobody Believes that Sympathy for Italy Calls for a Campaign Against the Dervishes—Salsbury Again Court-ing Public Favor.

By Julian Ralph.

London, March 16.—Two Cabinet meetings to-day, one in Berlin, attended by great excitement, and one in London, Wolsey dancing attendance, indicate a ticklish condition of affairs, which many predict must end soon with blows between the great powers.

The action of the Czar in conferring a distinguished order on King Menelik is regarded in Germany in the same manner as Emperor William's telegram to Krueger was regarded in England two months ago.

Here in England a two hours' session of the cabinet in regard to the Dongola campaign against the Dervishes, followed by discussion in the House of Commons, seems to indicate that Salsbury means to push English control far down the Nile to meet British holdings in Uganda and Victoria Nyanza, and to cement parts of the great African Empire, which is the Tory dream.

If Salsbury really plans this he is at least logical. He has never failed or ceased to condemn the Gladstone government for its failure to rescue Gordon. He has never ceased to argue that the Sudan should never have been abandoned.

LIKE THE SHADOW OF GLADSTONE.

Sir William Harcourt, speaking like the shadow of Gladstone, warned the Tories that if this first step was the policy of advance, it was a step of the most perilous character, and ought to be strongly condemned, and it will be strenuously opposed.

This is also logical on the Liberal side.

What he means by "perilous character," is easy to understand, and many share his belief. The reason is that France is keenly interested in preventing the southward spread of English power in Egypt. Whoever will look up the map of Africa, will see that France, beginning with Senegambia, on the west coast, has slowly crept further and further inland, until she now holds fortified positions two-thirds of the way across.

But what the map does not show is that at least one French expedition is believed to have already proceeded far toward the sources of the Nile. If France can hold these sources she holds Egypt at her mercy, because she can divert the waters of the Nile and thus destroy the whole value of Egypt, which is entirely dependent on the annual overflow. England has long more than suspected this to be Italy's design.

FRANCE MAY HAVE HER SAY.

Meantime, since the French are large investors in Egyptian bonds, she is likely any moment to protest against the use of any money in the Egyptian treasury for the support of the present war against the dervishes. Thus again, at four cardinal points is the peace of Europe put to an intense strain—in London, Paris, Berlin and St. Petersburg.

I find no one here who fancies that sympathy for Italy is at the bottom of this sudden move on the part of England in the Sudan. All believe it to be a Tory move to regain lost prestige, appealing to the patriotism of the public to regain what Britain lost when Gordon was killed. The whole movement was as sudden and unexpected as the explosion of a powder magazine.

The news made public by Mr. Curzon in the House of Commons to-night to the effect that twenty thousand dervishes were moving against three objective points in Africa, after all, given out by the Government as nothing more than a rumor. It is no news that the Mahdist fanatics are advancing on the isolated Italian force at Kassala.

It was long expected that this would happen, and it was foreseen that they must die, for the Mahdist leaders are no such gentlemen as Menelik proved himself to be. But the English are not to be aroused by the plight of Italy, while the Tories hope that by an effort to reconquer the Sudan they may weld the whole nation behind them.

So once again Salsbury is playing with fire, as he did in the Venezuela case, and